

Traditional Cultural Property Workshop Summary
Saturday, May 13, 2006
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Presentation by Tom King
(See Power Point Presentation)

A Traditional Cultural Property's significance is derived from *the role the property plays in a community's cultural identity as defined by its beliefs, practices, and social institutions.*

The National Register Nomination Identifies and Considers Resources: Hybrid of 2 Models:

- IDENTIFY and CONSIDER (Section 106)
- DESIGNATE and PROTECT (Most Local Landmark Programs)

The National Historic Preservation Act emphasized local significance, and the National Park Service developed professional standards for evaluating local significance, however, "It is vital to evaluate properties thought to have traditional cultural significance from the standpoint of those who may ascribe such significance to them..."

NR Bulletin 38

Native American Tribes have mostly taken advantage of the TCP process, but the concept of identifying and considering cultural identity is not exclusive to Tribes

Public Questions:

Which Vehicle should be used to administer TCP identification and consideration locally?

How can traditional uses be identified, considered and continued?

How does the TCP model of identification and consideration preserve place without protection?

How would TCP boundaries and possible buffer zones be defined?

How would the local Community be defined?

Could the HP Ordinance City Landmark Historic District criteria be used to include local TCP, cultural landscapes, and/or thematic districts?

Is Japantown eligible for the National Register as a Historic District for its association with events and as a TCP as the traditional home of Japanese Americans in San Jose, reflecting the community's culture?

Can TCP or Historic District buildings be replaced with new buildings that continue traditional uses?

Japantown Refined Context Statement and Intensive Level Survey, by Carey & Co.

Current survey work to research and define Potential National Register and/or City Landmark Historic District and TCP Period of Significance, overlay Boundaries, Criteria, Significance, and Contributing Structures/Sites

Public Observations:

San Jose Japantown's Post WWII local modern architecture is not readily recognized, but may be locally significant

If the Historic District can tell the story of the community, then it is significant

A living, evolving community requires flexible tools

Limitations of National Register Designation, which does not provide local protection at the same level of City Landmark Historic District Designation

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires environmental clearance for significant impacts (alterations and demolitions) of eligible Historical Resources

Potential of Senate Bill SB 307 Reports, being conducted by the California State Librarian's Office, to be used as Guidelines for discussion of 100 years in the future – work backward from that vision

Next Steps: Continuing the Conversation

Creation of interactive website/blog, including:

- Tom King's Powerpoint presentation
- National Register TCP Bulletin
- National Register Historic District Bulletin
- San Jose City Landmark Historic District criteria (HP Ordinance)
- TCP Symposium Discussion/Summary

Review HP Ordinance City Landmark criteria language

Use TCP Symposium Summary to conduct (online and mailed) Community Survey/Social Network Mapping

Continue Community Education about Preservation

Work with the Japantown Community Congress (JCC) as "Community Representative Organization," defining culturally important properties and features

Combine historical survey documentation with TCP definition of significance that continues to the present to form planning tools that allow Japantown to identify, retain and evolve cultural significance

Provide Pros and Cons of National or City Historic District or TCP Eligibility/Designation